United Nations A/C.5/63/SR.50

General Assembly
Sixty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
29 June 2009

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 50th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 2 June 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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09-35631 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad *(continued)* (A/63/565, A/63/746/Add.13 and A/63/817)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/565), said that the approved budget for that period had amounted to $182.4 million and expenditures to $165.2 million, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $17.3 million, which represented a utilization rate of 90.5 per cent. Resource requirements had decreased mainly because of the delayed deployment of the Mission's air assets, military liaison officers and United Nations police officers, and the delayed recruitment of civilian personnel. The unspent balance had been offset by increased requirements for the upgrading of airport infrastructure in N'Djamena and Abéché and higher expenditure with respect to freight and related costs.

2. The General Assembly was requested to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $17,260,300 with respect to the period from 1 July to 30 June 2008 and of other income for the period ended 30 June 2008, amounting to $1,387,000 from interest income and from the cancellation of prior-period obligations.

3. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for MINURCAT for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/817), he said that the Secretary-General had been authorized to enter into commitments for the Mission's expansion for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 in an amount not exceeding $139,671,300, in addition to the amount of $310,124,200 already approved. For the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, the proposed budget amounted to $768,190,100, representing a 74.3 per cent increase over the approved resources for the 2008/09 period. Increases in resource requirements were due mainly to the projected phased deployment by 30 June 2010 of 5,183 military contingent personnel, the full deployment of 30 aircraft approved for the 2008/09 period, the phased deployment of an additional seven helicopters, infrastructure construction and a greater demand for generator fuel. Those increases had been partly offset by reduced provisions for the acquisition of prefabricated facilities, budgeted for in the 2008/09 period.

4. The General Assembly was requested to appropriate the amount of $768,190,100 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, to assess the amount of $543,102,135 at a monthly rate of $64,015,841 for the period from 1 July 2009 to 15 March 2010, and to further assess the amount of $225,087,965 at the same monthly rate for the period from 16 March to 30 June 2010, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission.

5. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/63/746/Add.13), said that the significant expansion of MINURCAT proposed by the Secretary-General might not be entirely achievable during the 2009/10 period. The Advisory Committee accordingly recommended reductions under a number of budget lines for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, for a total amount of $128,465,900. With regard to resource requirements for military and civilian personnel, the Advisory Committee recommended the application of a 40 per cent delayed deployment factor to the cost estimates for military contingents; approval of the 35 new posts for civilian personnel proposed under components 1 and 2; and approval of 25 per cent of the new international posts, 50 per cent of the new national posts and 50 per cent of the new United Nations volunteer posts proposed under component 3. It further recommended that a detailed staffing review, conducted on the basis of operational requirements, should be carried out and the findings presented in the context of the next budget submission.

6. The Advisory Committee recommended against approval of the proposed upgrading of 15 posts under the support component. Given the high vacancy rate and the evolving support concept, it considered the majority of the upgrades to be premature. However, in view of the significant expansion of the Mission, it recommended approval of the upgrading of the post of Chief of Mission Support (D-1) to Director level (D-2).

7. As for the proposed increases in the provision for facilities and infrastructure, in the light of its recommendations on the levels of military and civilian personnel and bearing in mind both the underutilization of resources during the 2008/09 period and the

uncertainty surrounding the procurement of contractual services for the 2009/10 period, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of $40 million. For similar reasons, it recommended a reduction of 30 per cent in the provision for ground transportation and a reduction of $25 million in the requirements for air transportation for the 2009/10 period. It urged the Mission to ensure that its fuel farms were operational as soon as possible to avoid a repeat of the supply shortage and recommended that the average fuel cost for the period from January to March 2009 should be used as the basis for estimating fuel requirements during the 2009/10 period, since that would entail a $11.9 million reduction in the proposed budget. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of MINURCAT beyond 15 March 2010, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate an amount of $639,724,200 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.